



Southeast News

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE HOLDS TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING



CHURCH LEADERS CONVENE HERE — The annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ was held last weekend at the Southern Inn in East Ridge. Hosts for the meeting were Pilgrim Congregational and First Congregational United Churches of Chattanooga and the United Church of Belvidere, Tenn. The Rev. Reuben Sheares, far left, national director of church life and leadership for the UCC, was the keynote speaker.

Pictured with Mr. Sheares from left are the Rev. David Beebe, minister of Pilgrim Congregational Church and co-host; the Rev. Percel Alston, national secretary for adult education; the Rev. James Myers, newly elected moderator; Mrs. Audrey Livingston, conference secretary; the Rev. Floyd Carmack, moderator; the Rev. Emmett O. Floyd, conference minister; and the Rev. Andrew Frierson Jr., co-host. (Staff photo by Steve Grider)

CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS—Saturday, June 21, 1986

Africa call highlight of meeting

By Ruth Robinson
The Chattanooga Times

A telephone conversation with a missionary in South Africa was the highlight of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ for Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church.

The conference was held last weekend in Chattanooga.

"There was poignancy in hearing John Parsons (the missionary in South Africa) speaking quietly and guardedly, because he could be in trouble with the government if he answered a question incorrectly," Beebe said. "We are keenly aware that Christians (in South Africa) are struggling in many ways to deal with a difficult situation and are very much in need of our prayers."

The Chattanooga Times
Saturday, June 21, 1986

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH AWARDED FIRST PRIZE FOR CENTENNIAL HISTORY

The Annual Award of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, Given in Memory of Dr. Frederick L. Fagley, Founder and First Executive Secretary, has been given to the Pleasant Hill Community Church for their centennial history, The First Hundred Years of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, by Visitor Marriott and others. The category was for "churches under 350 members". Our congratulations to all of you who contributed to this prize-winning project!

DEDICATION AT ST. JOHN'S, CULLMAN, AL.

On Sunday, June 29th, the congregation at St. John's United Church in Cullman, AL., dedicated its beautiful new educational building. Costing about \$600,000, the three-story building contains new church offices, fellowship space and classrooms. It is a beautifully appointed building which is in keeping with the architecture of the sanctuary which is on the Historical list in Alabama.

The Conference Minister took part in the service along with Pastor George A. Fidler; Associate Pastor Herbert J. Young; Congregational President Larry James; Dot Kelly, Director of Christian Education, and the General Contractor and members of the Building Committee.

Our congratulations to the pastor and people for the successful completion of this ambitious project. May God continue to bless and guide this congregation.

THE AIR FORCE CALLS

The Rev. Dr. Lelan D. McReynolds, pastor of First Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ in Nashville, TENN, has been called to active duty. A Captain in the Air Force Chaplaincy Reserves, Dr. McReynolds has accepted orders to active duty for a four-year stint. He will report to Denver, Colorado, where he will be on the staff of the Senior Chaplain for Air Force Reserves. A trained lawyer, as well as a minister, he will help prepare educational materials on Military Justice for Chaplains.

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We wish Lee and Joy God-speed as they move to Denver late this summer. After helping out the Air Force, we hope they return to Southeast Conference!

MORE SURGERY FOR REV. ROBERT PEEPLES

Our prayers and best wishes go with Bob and Ruth Peeples as he recuperates from more surgery on his ankle. The surgery to "freeze" the ankle done last fall was not as successful as hoped. Bob decided to undergo further surgery in early July to correct this condition.

We all hope and pray that it "takes" this time, and that he will soon be back at his regular ministry as pastor of the Pleasant Hill Community Church.

MORTGAGE BURNING IN BIRMINGHAM

First Congregational United Church of Christ in Birmingham, AL, celebrated going out of debt with a mortgage-burning ceremony Sunday, July 6, 1986. Pastor James L. Myers (our new Conference Moderator), was assisted by various lay leaders in this joyous event. Conference Minister, Emmett O. Floyd, was present to bring the sermon. We congratulate First Church, and wish for them many more years of fruitful ministry!

LANGDALE HOMECOMING

The Langdale Congregational Christian Church (U.C.C.), in Valley, AL, observed its Annual Homecoming Service on Sunday, June 1, 1986. Conference Minister, Emmett O. Floyd, was present to bring the sermon and to help Pastor John D. Schofield and his people celebrate this occasion. After the morning service, the ladies of the church served a delicious dinner in the fellowship hall. Congratulations to the Langdale church and our prayerful best wishes for many more years of Christian fellowship and service.

Prayerful best wishes to Rev. Ralph D. Worley, of Roanoke, Alabama, who is recuperating from recent surgery.

CONFERENCE CORNER

I can remember teasing Jim Lightbourne, (The Rev. Dr. James H. Lightbourne, Jr.), a good friend of many of us who served as the Southeast Conference Minister from 1957 - 1966. I was then serving as President (Moderator) of the Southern Conference, where Jim was Conference Minister from 1966 until his death in 1981). What I was teasing him about was how relieved he seemed to be when Annual Meeting was over! Now, I understand. So much planning and energy to into an Annual Meeting that those of us involved are relieved when it is all over!

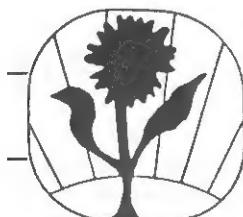
However, along with my relief, I have a deep sense of gratitude. First of all, I am thankful to God for all the blessings bestowed upon us all. I am also grateful to our visiting speakers, especially our preacher, Dr. Reuben A. Sheares, II. I am deeply appreciative of our host pastors and churches who did such a superb job of taking care of us....for our Planning Committee, resourced by Rev. Sandye Mullins, who put together such an inspiring program of worship, music, business and challenge.....for our Moderator, and all the officers and Directors who led us in the meeting, and during past years.....

I cannot begin to name all the persons who should be mentioned. But all of you know who you are, and I hope you also know how much I, and everyone else who was a part of the Annual Meeting, are indebted to you. I believe good things are happening and will continue to happen in the lives of our churches and our people.

Have a good summer, and let's all come back in the fall ready to go to work with renewed vigor for the sake of our Lord and the Work of The Kingdom.

God bless you all!

Emmett O. Floyd



Alabama-Tennessee Association

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association will be held on Sept. 19 - 20, 1986. It will be hosted by the Trinity Congregational Church, U.C.C. in Athens, Alabama.

The theme is "Christian Higher Education: A Ministry of the Church". Resolutions and amendments must be in the Association office by July 17, 1986.

A mailing will be out in August with the agenda and housing arrangements.

GRANDMOTHERS TO RUSSIA!!!

The Grandmothers for Peace are planning a trip to the Soviet Union in Aug./Sept. of 1986. They plan to meet with women's groups and peace committees, visit churches, schools and historic sites, and gather with Soviet grandmothers. If you are interested in making the trip, write to: Grandmothers for Peace, 2708 Curtis Way, Sacramento, CA 95818. Preference will be given first to members, then to non-members.

OFFICE FOR CHURCH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP MAKES THE NEWS IN THE ATLANTA-JOURNAL CONSTITUTION

The following article is re-printed from the July 5, 1986 Atlanta-Journal Constitution.

A study packet that focuses on the difficult tasks Jesus gave his followers has been published by the Office for Church Life and Leadership of the 1.7 million-member United Church of Christ.

Called "The Eye of the Needle", the material includes some of the sayings of Jesus. It includes information for church groups that want to explore how such statements apply to their own lives.

The Rev. Joyce Myers of Atlanta, Southern Regional Associate for the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership, said, "so often we tend to deal with the easy aspects

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O.C.L.E., Continued...

of our faith. We need to realize that there are hard teachings of Jesus that may challenge our lifestyles or the values of our society."

Much of the discussion in the book deals with social questions and the United Church of Christ, well-known for its social justice stands, has put special effort into probing the biblical foundations for those positions.

For example, the name of the packet and the first chapter in the booklet of worship programs comes from Jesus' statement that "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. (Matt. 19:24).

The program takes participants through meditations on Jesus' words, and the different lives of rich and poor and the call for Christians to share.

While the packet is published for clergy and laity of the United Church of Christ, it is also available to others. For more information call the UCC's Church Leadership Resources at 1-800-325-7061.

LANCASTER SEMINARY NAMES ALUMNUS DEAN

On August 1, 1986, the Reverend Doctor Nathan D. Baxter, Chaplain and Professor of Philosophy and Religion at St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia, will become Dean of the Seminary, at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA.

The Lancaster institution, established in 1825, is the oldest of the former Evangelical and Reformed seminaries, now part of the United Church of Christ.

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OBITUARIES

The Rev. Charles C. Haun, among the original homesteaders at the Cumberland Homesteads, died at age 93, June 18, 1986, at Wharton Nursing Home, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

He is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandson and one sister. Our sympathy is extended to all of his family.

Lela Jane Murphy Stephenson of Kansas City, Missouri, died on June 9, 1986 at the age of 96. She was the grandmother of Janice Stephenson Stallings, a member of Circular Congregational Church. Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Stephenson.

BOARD FOR HOMELAND MINISTRIES

A third National Youth Event is scheduled for July 7 - 11, 1988, tentatively to be held at Fisk University in Nashville, TENN.

This Youth Event is sponsored by the UCC Board for Homeland Ministries. Final arrangements will be announced in March or April, 1987.

"Happiness is not the absence of conflict but the ability to cope with it."

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